

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter.

New apparatus claims 9 and 10 cover the subject matter of claims 2 and 3, and new method claim 11 covers method aspects of original claim 2. Claims 9-11 have been drafted to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection of original claims 1-8. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 9-11 are now in condition for immediate allowance.

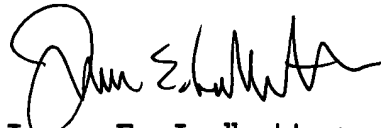
A proposed change to Fig. 1 is submitted herewith to overcome the objection thereto.

Accordingly, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone

the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Ledbetter". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a cursive "E".

James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: June 8, 2004
JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. L9289.00123
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